

Farm & Market Report

Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture

Vol.77, No. 9

September/October 2000

70 Massachusetts Farms Honored as Century Farms

Seventy Massachusetts farms that have been owned by the same family for one hundred years or more will be honored as Century Farms by the state Department of Food and Agriculture. The farms will be recognized at a special event on Sunday, September 17th at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) in West Springfield.

The farms are located across the state from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, Cape Ann to the Pioneer Valley. Some of the farms are more than 200 years old; some more than 300.

Governor Paul Cellucci has proclaimed Sunday, September 17, 2000 "Massachusetts Century Farms Day." In the proclamation, Governor Cellucci notes that "farmers and their families have played an integral role in the history of the Commonwealth, from the first Thanksgiving to the Battle of Lexington and Concord."

Each Century farm family receives a certificate of recognition and a commemorative booklet featuring an historical profile of each farm. The event on September 17th was on Heritage Day at The Big E and included a speaking program on Storrowton Village Common (on the fairgrounds) followed by a reception. 1 Century farmers rode in the daily Big E parade.

"The family farms of Massachusetts are truly rooted in the history of our Commonwealth and our nation. None more so than the 70 farms we are honoring as Massachusetts Century Farms," comments Jonathan L. Healy, Massachusetts Commissioner of Food and Agriculture. "The stories of these farms weave a tapestry of courage, determination, stewardship, ingenuity, entrepreneurship, patriotism and enduring family ties." ■

Native Tomatoes Compete at 16th Annual Massachusetts Tomato Contest!

DOVER, Mass. -- Tomatoes from farms across Massachusetts competed for top honors in the 16th Annual Massachusetts Tomato Contest held Friday, August 25 at Elm Bank Reservation, Dover. The contest was held in conjunction with the 5th Annual Massachusetts Marketplace Festival, a two-day outdoor exhibition of new and traditional local food and horticultural products.

More than seventy tomato entries competed for first, second, or third place tomato awards in the slicing, cherry and/or heirloom categories. Trophies are awarded to the top three winners in each category and certificates are given to the top ten winners in each category.

A panel of judges, including food media, chefs and produce specialists,

evaluated the entries from commercial growers on shape, color and flavor, with more value given to flavor.

The Massachusetts Marketplace Festival continued on Saturday, August 26 and was open to the public. On Friday food retailers, state legislators, and the media got a sneak peek at the exhibits and a taste of things to come at a preview reception featuring Bay State specialties prepared by local chefs.

The Tomato Contest is sponsored by the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Assoc., the Federation of Mass. Farmers' Markets, the Mass. Assoc. of Roadside Stands and the Mass. Dept of Food and Agriculture. The Marketplace is presented by the Mass. Horticultural Society and MDFA. ■

Massachusetts Tomato Contest 2000 Winners

SLICING CATEGORY

Blue Heron Farm . . .	Franklin . . .	Trust . . .	1st
Old Depot Gardens . . .	Montague . . .	Buffalo . . .	2nd
Gove Farm . . .	Leominster . . .	Jet Star . . .	3rd
Homestead Farm . . .	Merrimac . . .	Red Rider . . .	3rd
Ward's Berry Farm . . .	Sharon . . .	Sungem . . .	4th
Gove Farm . . .	Leominster . . .	Merced . . .	5th

CHERRY CATEGORY

Arena Farm . . .	Concord . . .	Gold Nugget . . .	1st
Wilson Farm . . .	Lexington . . .	Sweet 100 . . .	2nd
E. Cecchi Farms . . .	Feeding Hills . . .	Large Red Cherry . . .	3rd
Clark Farm . . .	Danvers . . .	Sungold . . .	4th
Verrill Farm . . .	Concord . . .	Gold Nugget . . .	5th
E. Cecchi Farms . . .	Feeding Hills . . .	Sungold . . .	5th

HEIRLOOM CATEGORY

Old Depot Gardens . . .	Montague . . .	Aunt Ruby Green . . .	1st
Old Depot Gardens . . .	Montague . . .	Eva Purple Ball . . .	2nd
The Warren Farm . . .	N. Brookfield . . .	Lillian's Yellow . . .	3rd
Verrill Farm . . .	Concord . . .	Mr. Stripey . . .	4th
E. Cecchi Farms . . .	Feeding Hills . . .	Brandywine . . .	5th

HEAVIEST

Verrill Farm . . .	Concord . . .	Mr. Stripey . . .	2.16 . . .	1st
Gove Farm . . .	Leominster . . .	Merced . . .	2.11 . . .	2nd
Old Depot Gardens . . .	Montague . . .	Omar Lebonese . . .	2.09 . . .	3rd
Mc Kinstry Mkt Grdn . . .	Chicopee . . .	Big Beef . . .	2.04 . . .	4th
Ward's Berry Farm . . .	Sharon . . .	Striped German . . .	2.01 . . .	5th



Farm Fact

Massachusetts is the largest tomato producing state in New England, growing some 56 million pounds of tomatoes in 1997 with a farm-gate value of \$4.5 million.



This publication is available in alternate formats upon request and on the World Wide Web at www.massgrown.org.



3rd Annual Pesticide Collection Scheduled for Nov.

The Pesticide Bureau will conduct its Third Annual Waste Pesticide Collection Program in November. The annual collection program is a legal, low cost, opportunity for pesticide users to dispose of unused, unwanted, banned and canceled pesticides. Licensed and certified pesticide applicators, farmers, state agencies and municipal agencies are eligible to participate.

Safety-Kleen will be the licensed hazardous waste hauler collecting the waste pesticides. The collection events will occur at Mass. Highway Department facilities in the following locations. "Pesticide Bureau Event" signs will be posted outside the locations.

- ◆ NORTHAMPTON, Wednesday, November 8th 2000 MassHighway Depot, Locust Street, Rte 9. (Take I-91 to Exit 18. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp to Route 5N. At the first set of lights turn left on to Route 9 West for 1.5 miles. Site is on the right after the City of Northampton facility)
- ◆ MILLBURY, Thursday, November 9th 2000 MassHighway Depot, Rte 146. (On Route 146 South. 1.7 miles South of Route 20 across from John Deere dealer).
- ◆ CONCORD, Friday, November 10th 2000 MassHighway Depot. (Follow Route 2 to the Concord rotary. The facility is located on the Westbound side of Route 2, across from MCI Concord state prison)
- ◆ MIDDLEBORO, Tuesday, November 14th 2000. MassHighway Depot, Route 28. (From Route 495, take the exit for Route 44. Travel 1/4 mile Eastbound to the Middleboro rotary. Take Route 28 South for a couple of miles. The depot is located after the State Police barracks on the right.)

You must pre-register with Safety-Kleen to participate. The pre-registration form is available on the web at www.massdfa.org/waste.htm. Or, call the Pesticide Bureau at 617-626-1773.

With your pre-registration, Safety-Kleen will assign you a time to appear at the collection site and tell you how much you will be charged. The cost for disposal will be \$9 per gallon and \$1.35 per pound. Please pay on the day of the collection event using a cashier's check.

Some 50,000 pounds of pesticides have been removed to date from the Massachusetts environment as a direct result of the Bureau's annual collection efforts. The November 2000 event is expected to be the last Pesticide Bureau sponsored collection event for waste pesticides for some time. ■

Disposal Alternatives for Pesticide Applicators

Pesticide applicators have several options for disposing unwanted pesticides and empty containers in addition to the Annual Pesticide Collection program to be conducted by the Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau this November. Licensed and certified pesticide applicators, farmers, state agencies and municipal agencies are eligible to participate in these programs.

Pesticide Disposal in Lexington

Pesticide applicators can now dispose of unwanted pesticides as Universal Waste at Minuteman Hazardous Product Facility in Lexington for a fee, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on August 26, September 30, October 28, and November 18. Applicators are responsible for making sure that their pesticides are packaged correctly for transportation. Note that prices are likely to be different than those in the statewide pesticide collection program. Contact Brenda Leonardo of Safety-Kleen for instructions and prices at 978-683-1002 x-5410.

Triple Rinsed Containers Accepted in Leicester

Pesticide users now have an opportunity to recycle empty plastic pesticide containers at Leicester Recycling Center on the first, third and fifth Saturday of each month from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Containers must be triple rinsed or pressure rinsed and free of any visual chemical residue, wet or dry. Containers must also be dry and free of any rinse waters when brought in. All caps, label booklets and plastic sleeves should be removed. The center operates year round. Call 508- 892- 3121 for any special arrangements.

Several dealers are accepting triple rinsed pesticide containers from their customers. This program provides pesticide users with a convenient free, environmentally friendly service to recycle empty, triple rinsed plastic agricultural containers.

Check with your dealer to see if they are participating. For more information access the Pesticide Bureau web site at www.massdfa.org/waste.htm. If you have any comments or questions, contact Gerard Kennedy at the Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau, 617-626-1773, Gerard.Kennedy@state.ma.us. ■

Agro-Tech Grant Program Seeks Proposals

Organizations and individuals with ideas for developing new or alternative environmentally sound agricultural technologies that could benefit Massachusetts farmers, are invited to submit proposals to the Department's Agro-Environmental Technology Grant Program.

The program will provide matching grants up to \$50,000 for demonstration projects, feasibility analyses and applied research projects that address agriculture-related environmental concerns and stimulate development in the industry. Last year, 11 projects were funded with an average award of \$12,500.

To request a copy of the Request For Response, contact Craig Richov at 508-792-7711 x14. The RFR is on line at www.Comm-PASS.com, listed under "Department of Food and Agriculture, Professional Services." Proposals are due by December 1, 2000. ■

Environmental Enhancement Program Application Available

The RFR (application) for the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program is now available and due October 20, 2000.

The goal of this program is to assist farmers who want to take a proactive approach to improving water quality by providing funding for materials to install best management practices.

The program has available \$350,000 with a maximum of \$20,000 per farm. The funding for this program comes from the Rivers Protection Act legislation with supplemental funds from MDFA.

The application is available on-line at (compass address) and on the DFA website. You can call any of the DFA offices and request a copy be sent to you or you can pick one up at the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation office or any of the USDA offices. Call Susan Phinney at 617-626-1772 if you have questions. ■

Farm & Market Report Monthly

Robert Durand
Secretary of Environmental Affairs

Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture
617-626-1700

Jonathan L. Healy
Commissioner of Food and Agriculture

Richard Hubbard
Assistant Commissioner

Mary Jordan, Director, Agricultural Development
Steven Quinn, Chief, Bureau of Fairs
James Hines, Director, Dairy Services & Animal Health
Brad Mitchell, Director, Regulatory Services
George Porter, Chief, Bureau of Farm Products
Janet Christensen, Director, Education and Outreach

Diane Baedeker Petit
Editor, Farm & Market Report

aginfo@state.ma.us
DFA Online: www.massdfa.org
Mass. agriculture info: www.massgrown.org

Agri-Tourism News:

Agricultural Directional Signs Update

To date some 29 farms have received approval from the Mass. Highway Department for agricultural directional signs (ag-signs). Many of these signs have also been installed. To receive an application, please call Anneli Johnson at 617-626-1755. Call anytime and leave your name and address and we will forward your application packet to you.

Publications Promote Agritourism

The 2001-2002 *Getaway Guide* published by the Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism is now accepting listings and advertising. A cooperative ad may be the most cost effective method of publicizing your farm in this guide. To learn more contact Kristen Gillespie at 978-213-9952 or kgillespei@mediaone.net

The updated *Down on the Farm Agri-Tourism Directory* has been distributed to state tourist information centers along the major interstates as well as to the Regional Tourist Councils/Chambers of Commerce operated tourist information centers.

The 2001 - 2002 *Guide to the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts*, a comprehensive visitor guide, is now on the works. If you want your farm or event to be listed in this guide, contact Cherie McBride at the Greater Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, 413-755-1343.

Regional Tourist Councils Generate Awareness

Consider joining your Regional Tourist Council (RTC) to gain greater awareness among the traveling public. RTC's promote events and festival and host seminars for their members. Below is the list of RTC.

- ♦ Berkshire Hills Visitor Bureau, 413-443-9186
- ♦ Bristol Cty. Convention & Visitor Bureau, 508-997-9090
- ♦ Cape Cod Chamber, 508-362-3225
- ♦ Franklin Cty. Chamber of Commerce, 413-773-5463
- ♦ Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce, 508-693-7589
- ♦ Greater Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau, 978-459-6150
- ♦ North of Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, 978-977-7760
- ♦ Greater Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, 413-787-1548
- ♦ Plymouth Cty. Convention & Visitors Bureau, 781-826-3136
- ♦ Worcester Cty. Convention & Visitor Bureau, 508-755-7400

For information on agri-tourism in Massachusetts contact Anneli Johnson at 617-626-1755 or anneli.johnson@state.ma.us. ■

Berkshire County Farmers Eligible for Low Interest Loans

Berkshire County farms that suffered weather-related crop losses this summer are eligible for Federal disaster assistance through the USDA Farm Service Agency.

On August 7, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman declared a major disaster in four New York counties due to damages caused by hail, high winds, and excessive rain that occurred on May 1 and later. Since Berkshire County is contiguous to one or more of the designated counties, it is also covered by the same disaster declaration.

Farms that suffered qualifying production losses (crops and farm products) from the disaster, and demonstrate an inability to get affordable credit elsewhere, may qualify for reduced interest loans up to \$500,000 or the extent of the loss, whichever is less. Applications will be accepted through April 9, 2001. Contact your local FSA county office for details. ■

Alternative Livestock Health Conf. Planned

National experts will present information about alternative and herbal livestock practices at a regional conference in Storrs, CT, October 20-21.

The conference responds to growing interest in alternative methods of promoting livestock health and should assist a spectrum of agricultural professionals.

The project is supported by the Northeast Region USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program and the UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Further information is available at www.sp.uconn.edu/~wwwahlhc/. Or contact Rochelle Syme, 860-486-6271, ssyme@canr.cag.uconn.edu. ■

How to Place a Classified Ad

Classified ads are accepted free-of-charge on a first-come basis only. Limit: 25 words. Be sure to include a phone number. No display ads will be accepted. Only one listing per issue unless space permits. Ads may run in consecutive issues, space permitting, providing we are notified before the deadline for each issue.

Ads must be of interest to Massachusetts farmers. The Mass. Dept. of Food and Agriculture reserves the right to refuse any listing it deems inappropriate for publication.

Send typewritten or neatly printed copy to: Farm & Market Report, Mass. Dept. of Food and Agriculture, 251 Causeway St., Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114, fax: 617-626-1850, dbaedeker@state.ma.us or call 617-626-1752.

CLASSIFIEDS

For sale: Woods M-5 5' rotary cutter \$850; Ford 909 5' rotary cutter \$500; Ford 4000 w/ loader, 3 pt & PTO \$4500. Village Power Equipment, Berlin, MA 978-838-2484.

For sale: Berri-King strawberry mulcher & trailer - \$1000. Also, BHC Spider 1 row cultivator, model 75, w/ fertilizer hopper - \$900. Andy, 413-253-4174 evenings.

For sale: over 100 tons of grass silage cut June 2-10, 2000. Make an offer. 978-342-6545.

Baleage, 4x4 round wrapped bales, \$25 loaded on your truck. Del. can be arngd. 413-527-3544.

For sale: 2 concrete round well tiles approx. 3 feet diameter, .25 each, 75 feet of 2" black poly pipeline, .01 cents per foot. Dancing Star Farms, 413-625-8300, mgw@dancingstarfarms.com.

For sale: Black Angus beef, round bale, square bale and mulch hay. Dave, 508-886-2317.

Greenhouses for rent: 8,000 sq/ft. Rolling benches, heating/vent. ctrls, autom. watering systems. Wood fired boiler, firewood incl. Outdoor space avail. Franklin, MA, 508-528-6862.

Barn sale: tractor, mower, seeder, mister, potato digger, carrot washer, cold frames, windows, cast iron tubs and sinks, other antiques and more. Bridgewater, 508-697-2752.

Pumpkins: locally grown, excellent quality, delivered or picked up, discounts on lge quantities. Satisfaction guaranteed. 978-264-4168.

Wanted: 2 LaMancha breed goats, tire chains, Farmall Cub PTO pump 800-1200 GPM. Selling 7ft sickle bar. 508-758-2678.

Yorkshire X piglets from tested herd. Grain fed. \$45 ea. Leave message. 781-878-6920.

For sale: Honey extracting set-up...20 frame Maxant extractor w/clarifier & pump, 80 gal. dbl boiler holding/dispensing tank. Also 60 cases 8 oz queenline jars @ \$6.50 /case 413-786-1533.

Registered Nigerian Dwarf Goats. Healthy, Milking Herd. Available: (2) does, (1) blue eyed wether born 3/00- 5/00. \$100.00-\$350.00. York, ME. 207-361-2126 olmtfarm@gwi.net

For sale: All natural, award winning packaging, hot cocoa mix company. Great holiday item. Outlets: private label, wholesale, gift basket, mail order and catalog. 781-329-8800.

For Sale: dry 1st & 2nd cut round 750# bales, also 1st & 2nd baleage. 413-369-4350 or -8029.

FARMERS: Need help with your property needs? We'll run a free help-wanted ad for you in THE CARETAKER GAZETTE. Please call 480-488-1970 or email: caretaker@uswest.net.

For Sale: John Deere Model 34, 150 Bushel manure spreader, very good condition, \$1,000. Call Bob at 978-365-9271.

Business solutions for the food and agricultural industry. Business planning and financing assistance. Experienced. References. Send for our brochure. Woody Pratt, Sherwood Consultants, Brookline, MA, 617-232-8818, fax: 617-277-0126, spratt@quik.com.

RI Red Chickens - Hundreds available from MA DFA inspected flock. Ages from 1 week to 4-5 months. \$1.50 to \$3 depending on age. Also ducks (some with crests) \$4 ea. 508-278-5017 or info@ArrowheadAcres.com

From our show flock, 3 registered Suffolk rams on USDA certification program and NSIP. Produce fast-growing lambs. \$350 and up. Stony Farm, Holden, 508-829-4556.

NOFA/Mass. certified organic lamb and certified organic hay for sale. Lamb is grass fed. Hay is from fertilized fields. Cardinal Brook Farm, Petersham, MA, 978-724-3314.

DEADLINE for the next issue of the *Farm & Market Report* will be October 15.

Presenting Mike & Ron's Flavors of New England

Starting this October, a new half-hour television show will be airing on ABC affiliate station, Channel 6 in Providence.

The show's co-hosts, Mike Daigle and Ron Fortier are friends, neighbors and co-incidentally, the co-hosts of Mike & Ron's New England Wine Tour, which premiered on public television this August.

This new show -- tentatively slated to be called "Flavors of New England" - - offers viewers an opportunity to rediscover what's going on in their own backyards.

The guys start in the kitchen (Yes, they cook, too!) and end up in local vineyards, farms, historic settings and even the classic tourist traps on the highways and byways of southern New England.

When they're not getting out of the kitchen, guests will be knocking on their kitchen door. It could be farmers, chefs, bakers or any number of interesting people bringing the wonderful bounty and flavors of New England to the show.

Show sponsorship is available to individual businesses and organizations for every budget and features in-show segments allowing sponsors to show off their product, wares and services, too. Contact Ron Fortier at wineguy-ron@hotmail.com or duchamp511@cs.com today! ■



Calendar

- ◆ October 7 & 8 **Berkshire Botanical Garden Harvest Festival.** Stockbridge. Music, food, tag sale, and crafts. Free. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. 413-298-3926.
- ◆ Oc. 7, 8 & 14 **Shaker Harvest Dinners**, held in the 1830 Brick Dwelling at Hancock Shaker Village, near Pittsfield. Call 413-443-0188 or visit www.hancockshakervillage.org.
- ◆ October 7 **Tri-Town Rotary Pumpkin Sale.** Lee. Call 413-243-5511.
- ◆ October 7-9 **Cranberry Harvest Festival**, South Carver, MA, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily. Free admission, parking donation \$2. Call 508- 295-5799.
- ◆ October 14 **Harvest Festival** at Allendale Farmers' Market. 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Ken Wirtes, 413-499-1012.
- ◆ November 5 **Autumn Table** at Gedney Farm, New Marlboro. Five-course Heirloom dinner. \$100. 5:00 pm. Sponsored by Eastern Native Seed Conservancy. Call Lawrence Davis-Hollander, 413-229-8316.

E-Commerce Seminar Series For Ag. Businesses

An e-commerce seminar series designed to help small ag. businesses learn how to evaluate, incorporate and implement electronic enterprise strategies into their operations is planned. The series is sponsored by the UMass Electronic Enterprise Institute and UMass Extension. The seminars will be held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlboro, MA, 6:00-8:00 pm. Refreshments will be included.

Nov 1: Introduction to e-Business. Nov 14: Basic Computer Literacy. Nov 29: Selling Electronically: More Than Just a Web Site. Dec 13: Selling Electronically: Technology Infrastructure. Jan 10: Selling Electronically: Supply Chain Management. Jan 24: Shopping for a Web Designer. Feb 14: Marketing on the Internet. Feb 28: Business Impact of the Internet: A Look at the Horticulture/Agriculture Industry. March 15: Maintaining and Growing Your Internet Business. March 28: Networking in the Internet World.

Cost: \$75.00 per session, \$650 to attend all 10 seminars. For a course description flyer call Alice Szlosek 413-545-2484 or Kathleen Carroll at 413-545-0895. ■

Lavender Teleconference Planned

"Field Grown Lavender Production" featuring Dr. Arthur Tucker, Delaware State University via teleconference will be held Wednesday, November 8th 12:30-4:30 PM at Greenfield Community College, Greenfield.

The program includes topics on lavender production by local speakers: *Economics of Growing Lavender /Producing Lavender for Oil, Value Added Lavender Products, and Lavender Pests and Management*. Guest speaker Dr. Tucker, Delaware State University via live video conference will present *Cultivar Selection and Lavender Production*.

Video conferencing is an interactive tool for distance learning. Attendees will interact with Dr. Tucker on a large screen TV via state-of-the-art video conferencing equipment.

This is the fifth in a series of video conferences presented by the UMass Extension Floriculture Program with support from the New England Greenhouse Conference.

The cost is \$20. For more information, contact Paul Lopes 508-295-2212 x 24 or Tina Smith 413-545-5306, UMass Extension Floriculture Program. ■

9/10-00

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 53425

FARM & MARKET REPORT
Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114
Address service requested